2. The convulsions of tetanus develop themselves more rapidly, and with more intensity in animals which are constantly being disturbed, than in those that are kept quiet. The influence of mechanical excitation is much more marked under the influence of light.

3. Small frogs poisoned with a twentieth of a milligramme of strychnia, readily succumb if roughly handled, but they may recover if they are left in perfect quiet.

M. de Renzi concludes from these experiments that absolute repose is the most rational treatment of tetanus. In fact, during the academic year 1872–3, he treated in his clinic two cases of tetanus. The first, treated with successive doses of chloral and repeated injections of curare, terminated with death; the second, treated almost exclusively by absolute repose, ended in recovery. In the following year, of two cases of which he had the care, one recovered under treatment by absolute quiet, the other, though treated in the same way, succumbed. Finally, during the year just finished, M. de Renzi received a fourth case in his clinic, which, like the three preceding ones, was treated by the method of absolute quiet, and this time with perfect success.

En resumé, according to the author, the following is the proper procedure in the treatment of a case of tetanus.

1. Place the patient in a perfectly dark room, and only open the door partially once in four hours, to pass in food and drink.
2. Stop up the external ears with wax, and recommend the patient to rest as tranquilly as is possible for him.
3. Every hour give him out of a suitable vessel, soup, an egg, and two spoonfuls of white wine. For drink, water, with a very small quantity of wine.
4. To quiet pain give a little belladonna and ergot.
5. Have a carpet on the floor of the room. *Gaz. Méd. de Paris* (*Gaz. des Hopitaux*, No. 123, Oct, 23, 1877.)

THE GOMBI ARROW POISON.—In a recent number of the *Bulletin Mensuelle de la Societé de Acclimation* of Paris, M. M. E. Hardy gives a detailed account of researches and experiments on the active principle of the poison obtained from the seeds of *Strophanthus hispidus*. This plant, which belongs to the poisonous order Apocynaceae, was first observed by Houdetot, a French naturalist in Senegambia, afterwards by Smeathmann, near Sierra Leone; by Baikie, at Mupé; by Griffon de Bellay, at Gaboon; and by Gustav Mann, in Western Tropical Africa. It is a climber, with a hollow cylindrical stem, and grows in the forests, where it ascends to the summits of the highest trees. The oblong, nearly sessile, opposite leaves, are from ten to twelve centimetres long by five wide, and are covered with hairs, particularly on the under surface. The yellow flowers are borne on terminal cymes. The fruit is a cylindrical follicle, somewhat thicker than the thumb, and contains from one hundred to two hundred oval seeds. By means of a fruit given them by the Paris Society, MM. Hardy and Gallois have discovered that the active principle is not, as was supposed, an alkaloid, and for it the name *Strophantine* given to it some years ago by Dr. Fraser, is retained. Besides, they succeeded in isolating a substance presenting the characters of an alkaloid, but which did not seem to possess any marked physiological properties; for this they propose the name *Ineine.* The former is very poisonous, a single crystal placed under the skin of a frog's foot causing the cessation of the heart's action in a few moments. Even after this has taken place the animal still possesses the power of motion, and it is only after respiration has become impossible, owing to the interruption of circulation in the nervous centres, that death ensues from paralysis of the heart. These observations, though yet incomplete, accord pretty well with facts recorded by different authors, and seem to prove that *strophantine* is really the poisonous agent in *Strophanthus hispidus.* The most elaborate experiments on the poison found at the extremity of the arrows, (used by the natives, both in war and hunting) are those conducted by MM. Carville and Polaillon in the laboratory of M. Vulpian. They were made on various classes of animals, and show that the deadly action is much more rapid in mammals and birds than in mollusks, crustaceans, and fishes. On frogs under the influence of curare the poison acts much more slowly, though the respective actions of the two substances do not neutralize each other. *Nature,* Oct. 11, 1877.

THE POISONOUS PROPERTIES OF THE BULBOUS AGARIC.—At the séance of the Acad. de Médicine, Paris, Oct. 16, 1877, (rep. in *Gaz. des Hopitaux* No. 121) M. Gubler read for M. Oré some extracts from a paper on poisoning by the bulbous agaric, (*Amanita bulbosa*) the same being in support of the following propositions:

1. That the symptoms observed during life, in animals who were under the influence of this fungus, presented, in their convulsive phenomena, very great analogies with those produced by strychnia.
2. That the lesions observed at the autopsy, consisting in more or less pronounced congestions, with ecchymoses, ulcerations, etc., and occupying the whole extent of the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane, likewise offered a great resemblance to the lesions we observe in animals who have succumbed to the influence of that alkaloid.
3. Studying the manner in which the poisonous principle of the agaric and that of strychnia act in solution towards powdered carbon, M. Oré has shown that if we throw the two solutions on a filter after stirring them up with this powder the latter has the property of retaining both.
4. He finally seeks to prove that if we inject into the veins of one dog a solution of strychnia, and in another the acidulated water in which bulbous agarics have been macerated, death of both animals occurs with the same rapidity, and is preceded by absolutely similar symptoms.

THE ANTAGONISM OF ATROPINE AND MUSCARINE.— The following is a note communicated to the Acad. des Sciences, Paris, at the session of Oct. 8, 1877, by Mr. J. L. Prevost, of Geneva, as reported in the *Bull. Gen. de*